Undergraduate Courses

509. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has formulated a scheme to bring together a cluster of colleges to pool their resources to set up joint ventures for introduction of undergraduate courses in the merging areas of bio-technology, genetics and bio-informatics, which require huge investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the studies conducted, if any, to make the scheme economically viable and also the administrative structure proposed to facilitate its easy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the scheme has not been approved by the Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

Education for rural children

†510. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the children of more than 75 per cent families residing in rural areas take admission even now in Government schools for study;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the condition of most of the schools in rural areas is very poor and requires overall reforms;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified such reforms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to improve the level of education among the children of rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY Of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.